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WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

BY

THOMAS U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE WHISTON
RURAL DISTRICT.

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:
T. U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: W. H. BONE, R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors:
A. RIGBY. W. REID. A. LAVELLE.

Sanitary Engineer: W. GARBUTT.

Annual Report for 1938.

The report is again an ordinary one, similar to those of recent years, and the return of births and deaths and estimate of the mid-year population is that supplied by the Registrar-General.

I have also received for comparison, the Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality for the whole of England and Wales, and for other divisions of the country as before.

Comparisons of our own rates with those of England and Wales, are shown in the latter part of the Report, as also those of the case rates of certain diseases.

1,—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres): 29,440.

Population—Census, 1931: 22,864.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938:
27,500.

Number of inhabited houses:

(a) Census, 1931	4,808
(b) End of 1938 according to rate books	8,071

Rateable Value: £154,703. Sum represented by a penny rate: £608.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area:

The inhabitants mainly belong to the working classes, along with a considerable number of the middle class. The chief industries are Agriculture, Coal Mining, Stone Quarrying, Brass Founding, Brick-making and Stove-making.

Extent of Unemployment: Not very considerable, but rather more than of late years, chiefly due to the influx of residents from the Liverpool area.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health: Coal miners and Stonemasons are liable to contract pulmonary complaints.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults: None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	TOTAL	Male.	Female.
Live Births—Legitimate	520	249	271
Illegitimate	9	6	3
Total	529	255	274

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 19.2.

Still Births	23	12	11
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 41.

Deaths	274	153	121
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Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: *9.9.

Deaths from Puerperal causes—Puerperal sepsis	0
Other Puerperal causes	2
Total	2

Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 3.62.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	60
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	61
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from—Cancer (all ages)	32
Measles (all ages)	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4

Population—Estimate, mid-1938: 27,500.

Population Estimate, and 1938: 27,886.		Per 1,000 of estimated Population.			Maternal Mortality. Rate.		Rate of Deaths under One-Year per 1,000 Live Births.
	Live Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births.	
Mean of 5 years,							
1933-1937	14.4	10.0	0.29	1.18	3.61	3.46	49
Year—1937.....	16.5	9.9	0.03	1.61	2.38	2.28	57
1938.....	19.2	*9.9	0.10	1.16	3.78	3.62	60
Increase or decrease in 1938 on							
5 years' average,							
1933—1937	+4.8	—0.1	—0.19	—0.02	+0.17	+1.16	+11
Previous year	+2.7	nil	+0.07	—0.45	+1.40	+1.34	+3

*1938 adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor, 0.96) = 9.5 per 1,000.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT IN 1938.

The Registrar General's complete return is as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
All Causes	153	121	274
Measles	0	1	1
Scarlet Fever	0	1	1
Whooping Cough	0	2	2
Diphtheria	2	2	4
Influenza	2	2	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	0	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	0	1
G.P.I., Tabes, etc.	2	0	2
Cancer	14	18	32
Diabets	4	3	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	3	6	9
Heart Disease	40	29	69
Aneurysm	1	0	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	3	9
Bronchitis	6	2	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	8	14
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	0	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	3	1	4
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	6	10
Puerperal Diseases other than Sepsis	0	2	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc. ...	16	2	18
Senility	7	15	22
Suicide	1	0	1
Other Violence	7	1	8
Other defined diseases	17	13	30
Ill defined or not known	1	0	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—			
Legitimate	25	7	32
Illegitimate	0	0	0

2.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: T. U. Mercer.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1938: £250.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority?—Part.

Any other public appointments held by him?: Medical Officer to Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Is he in private practice?: Yes.

Sanitary Inspectors:—

W. H. Bone. Remuneration at 31/12/38: £450. Whole-time.

Other appointments held: None.

A. Rigby. Remuneration at 31/12/38: £225. Whole-time.

Other appointments held: None.

W. Reid. Remuneration at 31/12/38: £105. Whole-time.

Other appointments held: None.

A. Lavelle. Remuneration at 31/12/38: £95. Whole-time.

Other appointments held: None.

Any other Specialised Inspectors?: None.

Ambulance facilities for—

(a) Infectious cases: Motor. Provided by Whiston Rural District Council.

(b) Non-infectious and accident cases: Motor. Provided by Public Assistance Committee.

(c) Maternity patients: Motor. Provided by Public Assistance Committee.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Nature of arrangements made by the local authority in the district for—

(a) General nursing: None.

(b) Nursing of infectious diseases, e.g., measles, etc.: None.

Total amount of financial assistance given by local authority to voluntary associations: £8/8/0 per annum.

Is there in your district:—

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre (Consultation) & treatment: No.

Antenatal Clinic: No.

Day Nursery: No.

School Clinic: No.

Orthopædic Clinic: No.

Artificial Light Clinic: No.

Hospitals in the district:—

- (a) Public: Whiston County Hospital; Rainhill County Mental Hospital (Annexe).
- (b) Voluntary: St. Joseph's Heart Hospital School, Rainhill.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for:—

Unmarried mothers: Whiston County Hospital by Public Assistance Committee.

Illegitimate infants: ditto.

Homeless children: ditto.

Health Education:—

Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment (e.g., health week, special lectures, etc.)?—Posters have been put up, and leaflets distributed as received from the Ministry of Health.

Give a brief description of special efforts made locally in connection with National Health Campaign to secure a wider use of health services: A brochure was compiled giving details of public health services in the district, and was distributed.

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY—

Authority from which supply obtained: Liverpool, St. Helens and Widnes Corporation mains. A few wells in outlying districts.

Source of supply: Red sandstone and upland surface.

Nature of supply: Partly moorland and partly deep wells.

Particulars of any new source of supply: None.

Is supply of district satisfactory?—

(a) In quality: Yes.

(b) In quantity: Yes.

Constant or intermittent: Constant from mains. Outlying wells not always dependable.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private):—

(a) Direct from mains: 8,001.

(b) By stand pipe: 16.

Possibilities of contamination: Some wells are liable to contamination.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: Samples from wells are taken from time to time.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action?: No.

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year?: This is done by the supplying authorities.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.: 70.

Have these waters been examined during the year?—

Bacteriological examinations: None.

Chemical analysis: One. Results: Water unfit for drinking purposes.

See later in report.

Any insufficiency and where: A few isolated cases chiefly in Bold and Kirkby. Nature of extension, if any during the year: See later in report.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

Sewage disposal works, method of treatment: Irrigation, with and without filtration.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system: Construction of sewage works at Halewood almost completed.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system, and reason therefor: Cronton, Tarbock and parts of others. Sewering of these areas would be too expensive.

Action taken — Drain testing, flushing, etc.: Smoke and colour tests.

RIVERS AND STREAMS—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams: Septic tanks and filters provided where possible.

Sources and nature of pollution: Sewage from our own and outside districts as well as trade refuse.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution?: No.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION at end of 1938—

Privy middens:—No. of middens: 1,003.

No. of closets attached to these middens: 1,183.

Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres?—

Yes, to some extent.

No. of pail closets 110

No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens) 409

No. of movable ashbins 5,912

No. of houses on water carriage system 6,075

No. of fresh water closets 6,295

No. of waste water closets None

Conversions—

	During year 1938.	During five years. 1933—1937.
No. of privy closets:		
To fresh w.c.'s 29	29	68
To waste w.c.'s —	—	—
To pails, etc. 6	6	6
No. of pail closets:		
To fresh w.c.'s 1	1	113
To waste w.c.'s —	—	—
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s —	—	—
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles 37	37	203

Is there any definite scheme at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Conversions are being made when finances permit. Loan for conversion of privy middens was not sanctioned by Ministry.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes.

If so, how much?—Half cost for privy middens; whole cost for pail closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

- (a) The method of collecting dry house refuse: In eight townships Council undertakes the work by motor vehicles.
- (b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies: By motor vehicles.
- (c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse: Refuse from eight townships is removed to central tip.
- (d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies: To farmers for manurial purposes.
- (e) The method of cleansing cess-pools: Done by occupier-owners.
- (f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents: Usually to gardens.

If a destructor is provided, state situation: None provided.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses: In eight townships by Council and in three others by contract.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements: None.

Are motor vehicles used?: Yes, by Council.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—By day.

Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging?: Yes.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS during 1938—

No. of premises visited: 1,439.

Defects or nuisances.—No. discovered: 139. No. abated: 132.

No. of notices served.—Informal: 122. Statutory: 4.

Legal proceedings: None.

SHOPS AND OFFICES—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of—

- (a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences: None.
- (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.: None.

CAMPING SITES—

No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938: None.

SMOKE ABATEMENT—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement: None.
 No. of factory and works chimneys in the district: 15.
 No. of observations: None.
 No. of legal proceedings taken and result: None.
 Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None.
 What is the time limit allowed per hour for the emission of black smoke?—None fixed.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS—

Brief particulars of any:
 (a) Public swimming baths or pools: None in district.
 (b) Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public: None in district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—

Particulars of action taken during 1938—
 No. of houses found to be infested:
 (a) Council houses: None. (b) Other houses: 12.
 No. of houses disinfested:
 (a) Council houses: None. (b) Other houses: 12.
 Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs:
 Fumigation and spraying.
 State name of fumigant and/or insecticide used and efficiency thereof: S.O.₂ and Solution D. Efficient.
 Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses: Disinfestation by formalin and S.C.₂.
 Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority or by a contractor?: Local Authority.
 Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing: None.

SCHOOLS—

(a) Sanitary condition: Generally satisfactory. Privy middens have been converted into water closets at one school during the year.
 (b) Water supply: All from mains. Is it satisfactory?: Yes.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—

No. of premises: None.
 Date of bye-laws: March 1st, 1935.
 Are they adequate?: Yes.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES—

No. on register: 49.
 What is their condition?: Fair.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES—

No. on register: None.
 Date of bye-laws: March 1st, 1935.
 Are they adequate?: Yes.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS—

No. on register: None.
 Date of bye-laws: May 13th, 1897.
 Are they adequate?: Yes.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, etc.

Action taken: None.
 Date of bye-laws?: None.

UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS—

Any need for regulations?: None.

CANAL BOATS—Number inspected: None.

No. of infringements of Acts: None.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928—

Number of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

NOTABLE SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS during 1938—

Construction of Sewage Disposal Works in parish of Halewood.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT—

New Sewage Works required in parish of Rainhill. Improvement of existing sewage works in Kirkby. Sewage Works required in parish of Cronton. Paving of back passages, especially in Whiston. Conversion of privy middens and pail closets.

4.—HOUSING.**(a) Statistics.****NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—**

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	700
(i) By the local authority	138
(ii) By other local authorities	None
(iii) By other bodies or persons	562
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)	138
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above)	None

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	132
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	391
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	None
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	None
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	132

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	25
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners None
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners None

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners None
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners None

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made None
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit None

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 85
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 86
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 643
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 85
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 650

(b) Housing Conditions.

1. General observations as to housing conditions:—

See later in Report.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district: 37.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses:—

- (a) Extent of shortage: There is still some shortage of houses for the working classes.

- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated: Most of those contemplated have now been erected. About 34 have yet to be completed. A further scheme for the provision of houses for rural workers is now contemplated.
- (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future: Considerable increase in population, due to the housing programme of the Liverpool Corporation in Knowsley, in continuing, and may occur also in Hale.
- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: None.

3. Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1938: Five.
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations: Two.
- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: None.
- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc.: None.

4. Fitness of Houses:—

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts: None.
- (b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: 86.
- (c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate accommodation: 20.

5. Action taken during the year regarding—

Clearance Areas: None.

Improvement Areas: None.

Housing Conditions.

BOLD.

There is no appreciable change in the housing conditions in the Parish of Bold with the exception of a small scheme which is being carried out by the Rural District Council consisting of 24 houses for rehousing families who were found to be overcrowded and for rehousing families from individual unfit houses.

CRONTON.

In the Parish of Cronton there has been very little building activity during the year.

ECCLESTON.

In the Parish of Eccleston building operations have again been well maintained, the houses erected being of the Detached and Semi-detached type for Owner-Occupiers.

HALE.

In the Parish of Hale a few houses of the larger type have been erected during the year.

HALEWOOD.

In the Parish of Halewood building operations have been fairly well maintained, the houses being of the Detached and Semi-detached type.

KIRKBY.

In the Parish of Kirkby the Rural District Council have erected 8 houses to rehouse tenants from overcrowded houses. Otherwise there is no change.

KNOWSLEY.

In the Parish of Knowsley the Liverpool Corporation have commenced the erection of 310 houses to rehouse tenants from slum clearance areas within the City.

RAINHILL.

In the Parish of Rainhill a fair number of the smaller type of Cottages to Let have been erected, together with a few of the Semi-detached type for Owner-Occupiers.

TARBOCK.

During the year the Rural District Council have erected 4 houses in the Parish to accommodate overcrowded families.

WHISTON.

Again this year building operations have been fairly actively maintained, houses of the smaller type principally being erected. The Rural District Council have also carried out a rehousing scheme embracing 76 houses for rehousing overcrowded families and families removed from Individual Unfit houses.

WINDLE.

In the Parish of Windle building activities have been well maintained, the houses which are of the Detached and Semi-detached type being taken up by Owner-Occupiers.

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(1) MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926: Premises inspected periodically by the Sanitary Inspector, and samples of milk submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938—

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1938 in respect of—

“Tuberculin Tested” Milk:

(i) Bottling: Nil.

(ii) Distribution: Nil.

“Accredited” Milk:

(i) Bottling: One.

(ii) Distribution: One.

Number of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk:

Pasteurising Plants: Nil. Retail distributors: Three.

Method used for the Pasteurisation of milk ("flash" or "holding"):
None.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences
for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation:
None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes.

How often?—Frequently.

What is their condition?—Generally satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or
improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds?
—Yes, in six instances.

Any information as to the cost of the work, actual or estimated:
None.

Farms.

Number of dairy farms: 124.

Approximate number of cows in the district: 1,400.

Cowkeepers.

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 124.

Number of inspections during the year: 256.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers).—

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers): 5.

Action taken by local authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous milk:

Number of samples submitted for biological test: 35.

Result. Positive: 4. Negative: 31.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations or (iii) Sediment tests:
None.

(2) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including
inspection of meat, slaughter-houses, shops, stalls and vehicles,
and places where food is prepared: Inspected periodically by
Sanitary Inspector.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

(b) Inspection of Meat (Carcases inspected and condemned)—

Number killed: Not known.

Number inspected: 141 pigs.

Number condemned—

For diseases other than Tuberculosis: Parts of 4 pigs.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease
other than Tuberculosis: 3%.

For Tuberculosis only: Parts of 18 pigs.

Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis: 13%.

- (c) Has a public slaughter-house been provided?—No.
Private slaughter-houses.—No. registered 1. No. licensed: 1.
Are they conducted satisfactorily?—Yes.
- (d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part III. of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give particulars with regard to action taken thereunder: None.
- (e) Food Poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken: None.
- (f) Bakehouses.—Number: 7. Condition: Fair.

(3) Adulteration, etc.

Action taken by the Local Authority) if they are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of—(i) Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, or (ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations: None.

Name of laboratory at which analyses are carried out: None.

(4) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food (excluding milk).
Number and nature of analyses during the year: None.

(5) Nutrition.—

Steps taken to increase knowledge of nutrition: None.

Any special investigation on the subject of nutrition: None.

(6) Shell-fish (Molluscan).—

Any shell-fish beds or layings in the district: None.

6.—Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available.—

For smallpox: Arrangements made with Liverpool Corporation.

Are any retaining fees paid?—Yes. £39 per annum.

If a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?—No.

For other infectious diseases: Isolation Hospital.

Number of beds: 38 (plus 28 in temporary erections).

Where situated: Delph Lane, Whiston.

Is the hospital used by “agreement” or “arrangement”?—It is now the Whiston, Huyton and Prescot Joint Hospital.

If a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?—Yes.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treatment?—No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease.—Cost per patient, year ended March, 1938: 8s. 5.62d. per day.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage?—It is always used to the best advantage.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever?—Yes. Anti-Scarlet Fever serum is used in all genuine cases.

Or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home?—No. All cases suitable for admission are removed to hospital, if willing.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative?—No.

Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough?—No.

Infectious Diseases generally:

Review the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1938: Diphtheria has again been the most prevalent of the notifiable infectious diseases, the townships chiefly affected being Whiston, Rainhill and Knowsley. A number of carrier cases have again been found and isolated.

Particulars of the clinical type and spread of Diphtheria and Cerebro-Spinal Fever: The majority of the cases of Diphtheria have not been of so severe a type as those in the previous year. A number of nasal cases have shown little in the way of clinical signs. The two cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever were isolated ones.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Cases removed to hospital are injected on admission. In other cases anti-toxin is supplied gratis on request.

Are supplies readily available?—Yes.

If so, where kept: Sanatorium, Whiston.

(b) Anti-Meningococcus serum: No applications.

Any other Vaccines or Sera supplied free to medical practitioners: No application.

Any observed relation between various forms of streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, sore throat occurring without a rash and puerperal fever): None.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics: Influenza has not been prevalent.

Pneumonia, Malaria and Dysentery. — Experience in regard to these diseases: All the cases of Dysentery except two, one of which was contracted outside the district and notified from the Whiston County Hospital, occurred in the Rainhill Mental Hospital. There have been no cases of Malaria. 22 out of the 35 cases of Pneumonia were notified from the Whiston County Hospital, and the majority of these would not really belong to our district, but in my opinion many cases of Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia are not notified.

Other diseases which have received special attention, e.g., locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever, undulant fever, glandular fever, or psittacosis?—None reported.

Observations on any other notifiable disease: None notifiable.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation: None.

Discovery of and action taken in regard to—

- (a) Contacts: Diphtheria, swabs taken.
- (b) Return cases: There have been a few return cases of both diphtheria and scarlet fever.
- (c) Carrier cases: Several carrier cases of diphtheria have been found and isolated.

The extent to which school intimations of disease are utilised: Examined each week, and schools visited if any number of cases of infectious disease.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

At which laboratory are specimens examined?—Crofton Lodge, Runcorn, and Liverpool University.

Number of specimens examined in 1938: (a) diphtheria, 2,564; (b) scarlet fever, nil; (c) enteric fever, nil; (d) miscellaneous, nil.

Number of times School Closure adopted during 1938 for measles: Two, and one other by School Medical Officer.

Number of reports made during 1938 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935: Two.

Subject of reports: School closure.

Immunisation.

(1) Diphtheria.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation:

- (a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools: None.
- (b) At special clinics or day schools: None, but arrangements are shortly to be made for this purpose.
- (c) Otherwise than (a) or (b): None.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practioners?
—No applications.

Number of children immunised during the year: None.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken?—No.

(2) Scarlet Fever.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation: None.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners?
—No applications.

Number of children inmmunised during the year: None.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Total Cases re-moved to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS														
		Under 1														
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over			
Smallpox ...	118	2	3	8	4	9	65	19	3	2	1	2	..	95	1	
Scarlet Fever ...	163	..	2	10	7	8	71	27	15	16	7	..	..	160	4
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	35	1	..	2	..	5	5	1	..	5	6	7	3	..	..
Acute Inf'zal Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ...	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery ...	18	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	9	1	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ...	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	1	1	..
Malaria, contracted—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In this Country	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abroad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles excluding German Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anthrax ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tetanus ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other disease—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ...	358	4	5	20	11	23	141	48	19	40	19	23	5	258	6	

Disinfection after infectious Disease:—

Number of houses disinfected during 1938: 250. Method: Formalin.

Are houses disinfected after (a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Yes.

(b) Measles: Only on request.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise):
Steam.

Number of articles disinfected: 5,000 (estimated).

Where is apparatus situated: Isolation Hospital, Delph Lane,
Whiston.

Disinfestation:—

What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous, etc., persons?—Done when necessary at the Whiston County Hospital.

Number of times this has been undertaken: One.

The prevalence of any animal or insect pest such as rats, bugs, fleas, mosquitos, etc., should be referred to, and particulars given of the measures taken for their suppression: Crickets on refuse tips. Spraying with creasote and paraffin.

Cancer.—Any observations as to the prevalence of Cancer: No special prevalence.

Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding Cancer: None.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or the developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of Cancer in the area which have been effected during the year: None.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres?—None.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on Cancer: None.

Prevention of Blindness.

Action taken under section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes: None required.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.†

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases.*				Deaths.‡			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— .....	—	—	.....	1	—	.....	—	—
1— .....	—	—	.....	3	—	.....	—	1
5— .....	—	—	.....	3	3	.....	—	—
10— .....	—	—	.....	1	—	.....	—	—
15—	—	2	.....	—	—	.....	—	—
20—	1	2	.....	—	1	.....	—	—
25—	2	2	.....	1	1	.....	1	—
35—	3	2	.....	—	—	.....	1	—
45— .....	—	—	.....	1	—	.....	1	—
55— .....	—	—	.....	—	—	.....	—	—
65 and upwards .....	—	—	.....	—	—	.....	—	—
Totals	6	8	.....	10	5	.....	3	1
	14			15			3	
							1	

*All primary notifications should be included, and also any other new cases of tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

‡(The number of Deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar-General).

†What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis death to total tuberculosis deaths?—Nil.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade: None.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936: None.

Number of applications for Orders for compulsory removal to hospital: None.

7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

Maternity and Child Welfare work is carried out by the County Council.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Details of cases notified during 1938:—

CASES			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Number Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1	...	1	1	...	...	...

(Signed) T. U. MERCER,

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1939.

COMPARISON OF RATES.

Rates per 1,000 population:

	England & Wales.	Whiston R.D.C.
BIRTHS—Live	15.1	19.2
Still	0.65	0.83

DEATHS—All Causes.....	11.6	9.95
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00
Small Pox	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.04	0.03
Scarlet Fever.....	0.01	0.03
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.07
Diphtheria	0.07	0.14
Influenza	0.11	0.14

NOTIFICATIONS.—

Small Pox	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.41	4.29
Diphtheria	1.58	5.92
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas	0.40	0.43
Pneumonia	1.10	1.27

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:

Deaths under 1 year of age	53	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	5.5	7.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY—

Puerperal Sepsis.....	0.89	0.00
Others	2.19	3.77
Total	3.08	3.77

Rates per 1,000 Total Births
(i.e., live and Still):

MATERNAL MORTALITY—

Puerperal Sepsis.....	0.86	0.00
Others	2.11	3.62
Total	2.97	3.62

NOTIFICATIONS—

Puerperal Fever & Puerperal Pyrexia	14.42	16.30
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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Infectious Diseases.

Measles was very prevalent in Hale and Halewood in the beginning of the year, and the schools were closed in these townships for three weeks. Later in the year, Whiston Council Infants' School was closed for a time by the School Medical Officer for the same disease.

Of the notifiable diseases, Diphtheria has again been the most prevalent, mainly in the townships of Whiston, Rainhill and Knowsley.

As there had been a number of cases of Diphtheria at one school in Rainhill, and a carrier found with a virulent type of the disease, who had been attending this school, 113 swabs were taken for examination, all of which proved negative.

Scarlet Fever has also been prevalent and the same townships have been those chiefly affected.

Both diseases have also been prevalent in the neighbouring districts of Huyton and Prescott, from which cases are admitted into the Whiston Isolation Hospital. A total of just over seven hundred cases, including a few cases of Erysipelas and one of Dysentery, have had to be dealt with, and at times the hospital has, in consequence, been considerably overcrowded. It was found impossible to accommodate all the cases in spite of the additions made in the previous year, and a number were sent into other hospitals, viz., Widnes, Aughton and Liverpool.

A scheme is in preparation for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

The new sewers and sewage disposal works at Halewood are now practically completed, and nearly all the houses are to be connected up. This will do away with a large number of privy middens and septic tanks and filters. The works are situated near to the main brook running through the township, which is tidal for a considerable way from the River Mersey.

New works are proposed for the township of Rainhill, where the present system is by broad irrigation, the effluent from which is very unsatisfactory.

New works are also being considered for a portion of Kirkby, the effluent from which at present runs through the neighbouring district of Melling, in the West Lancashire Rural District, and about which there have been many complaints.

Extensions are needed at the Whiston sewage works, where the sewage from the townships of Whiston and Eccleston is now treated by means of tanks and filters, but the effluent is not satisfactory and the sewers appear to be overloaded.

New arrangements are also needed in the Knowsley district and in Hale.

In Cronton and Tarbock there are no sewers, and the water courses are much fouled.

In Moss Bank and Clock Face, septic tanks and filters are provided and appear to work satisfactorily.

In districts where sewers are not available, small septic tanks and filters are provided for many of the houses, but many of them appear to be very satisfactory, and many complaints have been made as to the bad smell arising from them.

Schools.

Further improvements have been made at some of the elementary schools. At Rainhill R.C. School water closets have been substituted for the old dilapidated privies, and at Cronton R.C. School arrangements are being made to provide water closets also. When this is done, all the schools in the district will be provided with the water carriage system.

Nuisances During 1938.

Choked Drains	49
Insufficient Water Supplies	8
Defective Ashpits	30
Burst Water Pipes	4
Smoke Nuisances	5
Accumulation of Refuse	9
Animals	3
Brook Pollution	8
Vermin	14
Dampness	9
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	139
	<hr/>

Length of Sewers Laid.

JANUARY — DECEMBER, 1938.

Parish	Foul Sewers.
Whiston	1,353
Eccleston	493
Knowsley	70
Rainhill	142
Bold	249
Windle	260
Hale	—
Halewood	9,274
Kirkby	84
	<hr/>
Totals	11,925 lineal yards.
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Extensions of Water Mains.

Liverpool Corporation:—

Situation.	Size ins.	Length yds.
Longmoor Lane	4	276
Longmoor Lane	6	175
Longview Farm Estate	4	2,050
Longview Farm Estate	5	1,100
Pottery Lane	4	129
New Estate, off Warrington Road	4	238
New Estate off Warrington Road	5	229
New Estate off Warrington Road	6	24
Dragon Lane	4	649
Dragon Lane	6	118
Ivy Farm Estate	4	585
Sapleton Avenue	4	18
Lawton Road and Owen Road	4	356
Longtons Lane	4	211
Mill Lane	4	336
Mill Lane	5	25
Boundary Drive	4	90
Grange Avenue	4	78
New Roads off Macketts Lane	4	118
New Roads off Macketts Lane	5	189
Leathers Lane	5	61
Total.—6ins.: 317 yds. 5ins.: 1,604 yds.		
4ins.: 5,134 yds.		

St. Helens Corporation:—

Watson Drive	4	43
Stuart Road	4	48
Middlehurst Close	3	82
Blindfoot Lane	3	660
Queens Drive	4	183
Queens Drive	6	58
Queens Drive	3	160
Valleyway	4	62
Lester Drive	4	59
The Close	3	53
Martindale Road	6	180
Windle Grove	4	114
West Close	3	49
Park Avenue	3	70
East Lancs. Road (Moss Bank)	6	350
Bleak Hill Road	3	24
Moss Bank Road	6	39
Rutherford Avenue	4	220
Windle Close	4	25
Sackville Road	4	29
Total.—6ins.: 627 yds. 4ins.: 783 yds.		
3ins.: 1,098 yds.		

Widnes Corporation	3	239
	4	20

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.)

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (With Mechanical Power)	12	Nil	Nil
Factories (Without Mechanical Power)	12	Nil	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (Including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises).	4	Nil	Nil
Total	28	Nil	Nil

2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	Nil			
Overcrowding	Nil			
Unreasonable temperature	Nil			
Inadequate ventilation	Nil			
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil			
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient	Nil			
Unsuitable or defective	Nil			
Not separate for sexes	Nil			
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

T. U. MERCER,

Medical Officer of Health.

